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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Update 4 – 7 p.m.

## Additional work on NEI improvements already underway

Even though the break in the Northeast Interceptor (NEI) pipeline near Pine Grove Drive has been repaired, water quality testing and monitoring continues.

Testing began Tuesday and will continue through the weekend. The state Division of Environmental Resources issued a precautionary advisory against swimming and wading in Hewlett's Creek and adjacent tidal areas after the break.

At the request of the city, the US Coast Guard will issue a notice to mariners in the area about the state precautionary advisory. The notice will run through the weekend.

The city estimates that approximately 655,000 gallons spilled before the pipe was repaired early Tuesday morning. During the repair operation, crews discovered that the pipe had previously been damaged and repaired. The original repair, believed to have been done about 20 years ago, was not done or known about by the city.

At their meeting on Tuesday, the City Council directed staff to try to find additional information about any prior repairs done to the pipe. City staff also began on Wednesday to determine if there is any way to speed up the already fast-tracked project to build an additional pipeline.

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For more information, contact city Public Information Officer Malissa Talbert at 342-2736 or 470-8720.